

WILSON ACCEPTS MEDIATION, BUT SAYS HUERTA MUST GO; 3,000 AMERICANS HELD AS HOSTAGES; THEIR LIVES IN PERIL

Envoys of Brazil, Argentina and Chile
Will Try to Induce Dictator to Yield,
but Have Misgivings About
Success of Mission.

WAR PREPARATIONS TO GO ON

President Tells Diplomats That Plans for Peace
Will Fail if Mexicans Commit Overt Act
During Negotiations.

The United States agreed yesterday to accept a proposal from Brazil, Argentina and Chile to mediate in Mexico.

President Wilson stipulated that the plan must include the elimination of Huerta, and the restoration of constitutional government in Mexico.

It was added that in the event of any act of aggression by Mexico the United States will take any military steps it deems wise.

Preparations for war continue unabated pending the negotiations.

The policy of Huerta apparently is to hold 3,000 American men in Mexico as hostages. Huerta is permitting only women and children to leave the city.

Scores of Americans, including women, have been dragged from trains on the way to Vera Cruz and held prisoners.

Refugees at Vera Cruz say three American railroad men have been killed by Mexicans at Cordova.

While Villa is professing friendship for the United States he is throwing up intrenchments at Juarez.

The gunboat Norfolk landed marines at Guaymas, on the Pacific coast, and took the place without firing a shot.

MEDIATION PLAN ACCEPTED BY WILSON WITH CONDITION

President Stands to Original Demand for Elimination
of Gen. Huerta and Return of
Constitutional Government.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—The United States Government has consented to mediate its differences with Mexico, and steps already have been taken to obtain Huerta's consent to such a settlement of the crisis.

This unexpected turn of affairs came this evening as a result of an offer by Brazil, Chile and the Argentine Republic to use their good offices to bring about mediation. This Government immediately accepted in the hope that the proposals to be advanced by the South American republics may prove "feasible and prophetic of a new day of mutual cooperation and confidence in America."

While accepting, President Wilson imposed conditions of his own. One of these was that no solution of the crisis will be acceptable to the United States which does not provide for the elimination of Huerta and the restoration of constitutional government in Mexico.

The demand for a salute to the flag by way of reparation, which is the immediate cause of the present crisis, apparently does not figure in the mediation proposals. It is so completely overshadowed by the proposal to eliminate Huerta and establish constitutional government, that it probably would be disregarded by this Government in the event of a successful conclusion of the larger issues.

There was a suggestion to-night that the South American Governments had communicated with Huerta before they offered their service to the United States. This suggestion was based chiefly on the belief that the United States would not have consented to mediation on a question of national honor unless some assurances had been received that it would at least be considered by Huerta. What will be Huerta's attitude, now that the United States has imposed drastic conditions, could only be conjectured here to-night. It was apparent that the South American diplomats had misgivings about the result.

Involves All Factions.

But the mediation proposed by Argentina, Brazil and Chile is not a matter solely between the United States Government and Huerta. It involves all factions in Mexico. Before success can be hoped for it and any internal reorganization brought about the consent of Carranza, Zapata and other factional leaders must be obtained.

In the meantime the United States will not draw back an inch from the military operations already under way. In fact, the President specifically reserves the right to move immediately in the event of any act of aggression on the part of Huerta and his forces. He urges haste upon the representatives of the South American Governments if any good is to be expected from the negotiations.

Before he would consent to mediation President Wilson stipulated that the proceeding should in no wise involve this Government in a recognition of Huerta.

Throughout the day developments showed that the Administration clearly waves aside the Tampico flag incident and the insult to national honor upon which it has based its action thus far and is willing to make certain sacrifices in that connection in order to accomplish the original purpose of its Mexican policy, the elimination of Huerta.

Criticism Is Expected.

The new move of the Wilson Administration was so sudden that Washington has hardly had time to make up its mind what it really thinks of the present proceeding. There is likely to be a sharp division of opinion in Congress. Some members will criticize the President for having consented to any negotiations which do not involve a flat surrender by Huerta on all of the original demands.

Others will contend that the President has gained a decided tactical advantage. There is no doubt that if Huerta will consent to suspend hostilities pending a consideration of the mediation proposals, it will help the Wilson Administration out of a very embarrassing situation.

All day reports have been pouring into Washington of uprisings and outrages upon Americans in Mexico. The attacks were not confined alone to the territory controlled by Huerta. From all sections of Mexico came the same story—attacks upon American Consulates, stoning and mobbing of American citizens, the arrest of American citizens, including 125 women and children who were removed from the rescue train which bore Charge O'Shaughnessy to Vera Cruz and held as hostages.

The work that had been kindled in Mexico city seemed to have spread quickly over the entire republic, and the Wilson Administration was face to face with the alarming prospect of a massacre of Americans and the immediate necessity of despatching naval forces inland as rescue parties.

U. S. Not Prepared.

It is a fact admitted by army men with regret that the United States is not prepared to face such a situation. There has been too much delay in the sending of troops to Vera Cruz to back up the navy and the marines in any



EDO SUAREZ MUJICA,
MINISTER OF CHILE

D. DA GAMA,
AMBASSADOR OF BRAZIL

ROMULO S. NAON,
MINISTER OF ARGENTINA

South America's Offer of Mediation and the Reply of President Wilson.

THE offer on the part of Brazil, Argentina and Chile to act as mediators in the dispute between the United States and President Huerta and President Wilson's acceptance of the offer are given in the following communications made public at Washington last night:

LEGATION OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

WASHINGTON, April 25, 1914.

Mr. Secretary of State:

"With the purpose of subserving the interests of peace and civilization in our continent and with the earnest desire to prevent any further bloodshed to the prejudice of the cordiality and union which have always surrounded the relations of the Governments and peoples of America, we, the plenipotentiaries of Brazil, Argentina and Chile, duly authorized thereto, have the honor to tender to your Excellency's Government our good offices for the peaceful and friendly settlement of the conflict between the United States and Mexico.

"This offer puts in due form the suggestions which we had the occasion to offer heretofore on the subject to the Secretary, to whom we renew the assurances of our highest and most distinguished consideration.

"D. DA GAMA.

"R. S. NAON.

"EDO. SUAREZ MUJICA."

To this message President Wilson, through Secretary of State Bryan, sent the following reply:

"The Government of the United States is deeply sensible of the friendliness, the good feeling and the generous concern for the peace and welfare of America manifested in the joint note just received from your Excellencies tendering the good offices of your Governments to effect, if possible, a settlement of the present difficulties between the Government of the United States and those who now claim to represent our sister republic of Mexico. Conscious of the purpose with which the proffer is made, this Government does not feel at liberty to decline it. Its own chief interest is in the peace of America, the cordial intercourse of her republics and her people and the happiness and prosperity which can spring only out of frank, mutual understanding and the friendship which is created by common purpose. The generous offer of your Governments is therefore accepted. This Government hopes most earnestly that you may find those who speak for the several elements of the Mexican people willing and ready to discuss terms of satisfactory and therefore permanent settlement. If you should find them willing this Government will be glad to take up with you for discussion in the frankest and most conciliatory spirit any proposals that may be authoritatively formulated and will hope that they may prove feasible and prophetic of a new day of mutual cooperation and confidence in America.

"This Government feels bound in candor to say that, its diplomatic relations with Mexico being for the present severed, it is not possible for it to make sure of an uninterrupted opportunity to carry out the plan of intermediation which you propose. It is, of course, possible that some act of aggression on the part of those who control the military forces of Mexico might oblige the United States to act to the upsetting of the hopes of immediate peace, but this does not justify us in hesitating to accept your generous suggestion. We shall hope for the best result within a time brief enough to relieve our anxiety lest ill considered hostile demonstrations should interrupt negotiations and disappoint our hopes of peace."

expedition which they might be obliged to undertake to Mexico city or other points inland.

Army men contend that at least a division, instead of a single brigade, ought now to be on the way to Vera Cruz. In fact they contend that such a force of United States troops ought already to be on the ground.

A delay through mediation proceedings will give the United States an opportunity to correct the errors of the past and prepare itself for a more forceful campaign in the event of failure.

Furthermore the acceptance of the mediation proposal will set the United States in a more favorable light in the eyes of Latin America. Ever since the seizure of Vera Cruz the suspicion of the South American republics and some of the Central American Governments has been steadily growing. They have feared that the United States is engaged in a land grabbing campaign and there was real danger of the entire influence of this Government with Latin America being thrown on the rocks.

The designation of Brazil by President Wilson to represent the United States diplomatically in Mexico was the first move in an effort to restore the confidence of South and Central America, and now the President has seized the offer of the so-called "A. B. C." Governments of South America to give further basis for a change of sentiment. All three of the South American Governments which have offered to use their offices to bring about mediation have refused up to this time to recognize Huerta.

Quarrel Is With Huerta.

There is still another advantage which the Administration believes it will derive from the new move. The incident will serve to emphasize to the people of Mexico the President's contention that his quarrel is with Huerta individually, and that he has no ulterior purpose beyond restoring order in Mexico

the attitude of Carranza and Villa would be. The Constitutionalist leaders have already made too much headway in their military campaign to consent to any programme which would be likely to deprive them of the fruits of their labors.

An interesting sidelight on the attitude of Gen. Pancho Villa in the present imbroglio is given in a dispatch received by an official here from the editor of a newspaper at El Paso, Tex.

This editor reported that in a conversation with the rebel General he had inquired if a proposal of the United States to transport Villa and his army to Vera Cruz so that they might march on Mexico city from there would be accepted.

"You bet your life it would," said Villa.

Officials here have no doubt of the sincerity of Villa's opposition to Huerta. Huerta will be subjected to strong pressure by European Governments to agree to a peaceful solution of the crisis, but Carranza and Villa will not be so amenable to suggestions from the other side of the Atlantic.

The general opinion in Washington to-night is that there will be some parleying, a few diplomatic exchanges and then a general mix-up and confusion which will compel the United States to undertake its military operations exactly where they have been left off.

It is clearly indicated at the Navy Department and the War Department to-night that there will be no halt in the preparations now going forward for an extension of the campaign in Mexico.

Secretary Daniels is at his desk to-night directing the movements of vessels and Secretary Garrison is still sending out rush orders preparing the United

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12 Excursion to Washington, D. C., via Royal Blue Line, Sunday, May 24, 1914. New Jersey Central Station, N. Y. City, 11:30 A. M. Liberty St. 12:30 P. M. Return from Washington, 4 P. M. May 25, 1914.

Huerta Is Not Permitting Americans to
Leave the Capital—Those Who
Escape Largely Women
and Children

REFUGEES GET OUT DISGUISED

Word Reaches Vera Cruz That American Club in
Mexico City Has Been Set on Fire—
Marines Take Guaymas

NEW RIOTING IN MEXICO CITY

WASHINGTON, April 25 (Sunday, 2 A. M.)
Secretary Bryan received official messages from Vera Cruz to-night saying there had been new and more serious rioting in Mexico city.

Mr. Bryan regarded the situation disclosed by these messages as very grave. He declined to make the messages public. They contained information to the effect that two Americans had been killed in Mexico city.

No explanation was given of Mr. Bryan's refusal to make the facts public, but it was assumed that he regarded the developments as dangerously unfavorable to the mediation plan.

By E. DE L. SLEVIN.
(Special correspondent of THE SUN.)
VERA CRUZ, April 25.—Huerta is not permitting Americans to leave Mexico city. Those who have managed to reach here came in disguise and are largely women and children.

A refugee train of ten cars bringing 200 Americans who were disguised as Germans or English has just arrived here from Mexico city. The incoming refugees report that Federal troops killed three American railroad men at Soledad yesterday.

The refugees report that 5,000 Federal soldiers are assembled between here and the capital. At every station passed by the train cries of "Death to the Gringos!" reached the ears of the passengers, together with vivas for the other nations. Gen. Huerta furnished a guard for the train.

The belief of those here who have closely followed the Mexican situation is that the only way to prevent wholesale anti-American riots and the slaughter of American citizens still in the republic is the advance of an irresistible armed force directly on Mexico city from three points, as previously planned.

The object would be to make Gen. Huerta and the officials of his Government pay with their lives for the lives of Americans already sacrificed. Mr. Canada, the American Consul, says Gen. Gustavo Maass has permitted several of the Americans who were held as prisoners at Cordova to come in by the train which brought a number of American refugees.

The messenger sent by Mr. Canada to Gen. Maass to demand the release of the prisoners has not returned, but the Consul believes that the remainder of the Americans who were being held by Gen. Maass will come in on another train from Mexico city which is expected late to-night.

An unconfirmed report from Mexico city says that Chihuahua Zapata is expected to enter the capital to-morrow morning.

Word has been received here that an American grocery at Mexico city has been burned by the street mobs and that the American Club has been set on fire.

Two aviators began to reconnoiter today in aeroplanes landed from the battleship Mississippi. They rose from the square here and whirled over the city several times, climbing higher and higher and then dashed in the direction of the Mexican forces under Gen. Maass, flying at a height that made it impossible for the Mexican sharpshooters to reach them.

The aviators were ordered out as a result of the reports that the Mexican forces are assembling at several points outside the city and that more than 5,000 soldiers were near at hand. The aviators are expected to bring back accurate reports about the entrenchments of the Mexicans, their number and activities.

Vera Cruz was comparatively quiet to-day. Sniping seems to have ended and confidence appears to be returning to the native merchants and business men. More of the stores were open for business and the restaurants are doing a thriving business. Some food is coming into the city, but it is necessary for the battalions to supply food to many men, women and children. There was a long bread line to-day of those seeking food.

The order issued by Rear Admiral Fletcher closing the saloons remains in force and little drunkenness has been observed in the past two days.

Cristobal Martinez, a wealthy Mexican, who married an American, died yesterday as a result of a wound he received in sniping marines and sailors. He had professed intense friendship for Americans, but he was suspected of being concerned in the shooting of sailors and marines from a houseboat. He was watched closely and was detected on a balcony with a newspaper over his knees. The newspaper rose occasionally and there came a puff of smoke. A steel bullet from an American rifle ended his activities. His wife sailed on the Esperanza yesterday, not knowing his fate.

Official notice was published to-night that any Mexican found here with firearms in his possession after midnight will be executed. The notice says sniping must stop.

AMERICAN WOMEN HELD AS CAPTIVES BY THE MEXICANS

Consul Canada Calls on Gen. Maass in Name of
Decency to Release Captives—Offers to Escort
Mexicans From Vera Cruz

By DUDLEY HARMON.
(Special correspondent of THE SUN with
Admiral Bagge's fleet.)
VERA CRUZ, April 25.—United States Consul W. W. Canada is convinced, from reports he has received from various refugees coming to this city, that the Mexican policy now seems to be to seize Americans throughout the country and hold them as hostages.

He has received information that four Americans have been killed by Mexicans in Mexico city and that nine others and one Briton have been dragged from trains bound for this city and held as prisoners, if not executed. He also has been informed that American women and children have been prevented from leaving Mexico city, being detained there on the theory that the United States authorities at Vera Cruz are holding all Mexicans here against their will.

The Consul has sent an emissary to Gen. Maass at Cordova demanding in the name of decency that the Mexican commander release the Americans who were taken off trains at Tierra Blanca and Motzlongo. He also demanded the release of prisoners said to be held at Orizaba and other points. It has been made clear to Gen. Maass

through the emissary that Mexicans in Vera Cruz are at liberty to leave at will and that all arrangements will be made to escort them to the break in the railroad, where they can receive the protection of Mexican soldiers. It was explained also by the emissary that Mexicans who wish to enter Vera Cruz will be permitted to do so, but they must come unarmed.

Americans Taken From Train.

Four Americans were taken from a train on the Vera Cruz Isthmus line at Tierra Blanca. They are W. A. Mangum, superintendent of the railroad; Engineer Elliott and Conductors Riley and Hart. At Motzlongo three more Americans and one Englishman were dragged from the train and made prisoners. They are Edward Wrench and his son Sidney, A. M. Thomas and Mr. Boyd.

Five Americans were captured on a train not far from Vera Cruz by Major Ponce Martinez and taken to Cordova. The other prisoners are thought to have been taken to Orizaba. The five captured by Major Martinez are W. B. Wofford of Georgia, F. W. Lehnner of Omaha, W. A. Bodford of Michigan, W. C. Dibrow of New York and James Blicher of Buf.